

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region**

**Executive Officer's Report
Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer**

May 25, 2000

INSIDE THIS REPORT :

Groundwater Division
Enforcement
Stormwater
Remediation
Underground Storage Tanks
Surface Water Division
Watershed Regulatory
Regional Programs
Watershed/Coastal Waters
Outreach
Administrative Services

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GROUNDWATER DIVISION

A. ENFORCEMENT AND STORMWATER

Enforcement

ACL Issued to Wilshire West Partners

Sam Unger

On May 10, 2000, the Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL), in the amount of \$353,825, to Wilshire West Partners for discharge of oily wastewater from the Wilshire Renaissance Apartments, located at 630 S. Masselin Avenue, to Ballona Creek in October 1999. The discharge impaired the beneficial uses of Ballona Creek, and caused a nuisance and waterfowl deaths. In addition, Wilshire West Partners has failed to maintain its wastewater treatment system in good working condition and submit reports of self-monitoring for at least the past three years.

ACL Issued to Western Pacific Housing

Jay Das

On May 9, 2000, the Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL), in the amount of \$20,000, to Western Pacific Housing for discharging wastes including sediment into storm drains leading to Arroyo Conejo at a construction project at Lynn Road and Reino Road in the City of Thousand Oaks, California. The discharge, observed by Ventura County Flood Control staff and Regional Board staff during the course of two inspections in October 1999, was in violation of Order No. 99-08-DWQ (General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity).

ACL Issued to Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1 - Moorpark Wastewater Treatment Plant

Veronica Cuevas-Alpuche

On May 11, 2000, the Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL), in the amount of \$105,313, to Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1 (VCWD) for violations of WDR Order No. 90-061 and NPDES Order No. 97-033 for their Moorpark Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 9550 Los Angeles Avenue, Moorpark, California. From April 1997 to the present, VCWD chronically violated Order Nos. 90-061 and 97-033 by discharging secondary-treated effluent to the South Las Posas area of the Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin, with concentrations of BOD and Suspended solids that exceeded the daily maximum limitation of 45 mg/L; and by discharging tertiary-treated effluent to Arroyo Las Posas, with concentrations of Turbidity and Sulfate that exceeded the daily maximum limitation of 8 NTU and 250 mg/L, respectively. In addition, VCWD has submitted late discharge monitoring reports.

Staff Reviewing the City of Los Angeles Sewer System

Hugh Marley

Regional Board staff are being assisted by the USEPA in a review of the City of Los Angeles' Wastewater Collection System. The review team, including Ken Greenberg of the USEPA Region IX, USEPA's consultant (SAIC), and Regional Board staff, spent April 17-20 inspecting City of Los Angeles' Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) sites caused by grease blockages; interviewing personnel for Cities that contract with the City of Los Angeles regarding their sewer operation, maintenance, and emergency response procedures; and reviewing the City's hydraulic model for the NEIS project. A preliminary report, detailing its findings and recommendations, is scheduled to be available by June 2000.

NOV and CAO Issued to the Wildlife Waystation, Inc.

Hugh Marley and Morton Price

Wildlife Waystation is a seven day-a-week, 24 hour-a-day animal care and rescue center located on approximately 160 acres near the residential community of Lake View Terrace, within the Los Angeles River Watershed. The Wildlife Waystation contains about 214 animal pens and cages, duck and waterfowl ponds, a veterinary clinic, mobile homes, and housing for about 130 employees and volunteers. The facility houses about 1200 animals, including lions, bears, wolves, horses, chimpanzees, tigers, mountain lions, and various other animals and discharges up to 50,000 gallons per week of wastewater during dry weather seasons (non-stormwater waste) to the creek. In response to reports by California Department of Fish and Game, Regional Board staff inspected the facility on April 5 and April 26, 2000, during which staff observed discharge of wash water from animal cages and corral areas to an on-site stream and to land, and discharge of graywater from employee living quarters to land. On May 5, the Executive Officer issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) and a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) to ensure that the water quality of the streams in the area is adequately protected, that the appropriate 'Best Management Practices' (BMPs) are implemented, and that the owners submit a complete Report of Waste Discharge.

Staff Updating Halaco Engineering, Inc.

Rick Vergets

Halaco is a metals recycler located in Oxnard, which discharges waste along Ormand Beach under Waste Discharge Requirements issued in 1980. Staff are in the process of updating Halaco's Waste Discharge Requirements and drafting a response to a workplan Halaco submitted on April 27th to comply with the two Notices of Violation (NOVs). The NOVs were issued in February and in March for violations of Waste Discharge Requirements specified in Order No. 80-58.

Oxnard Forebay Septic System Prohibition

Rick Vergets

Staff are arranging for independent peer review of the Oxnard Forebay Septic System Prohibition

report. In the mean time, staff are preparing to attend a State Water Resources Control Board workshop, in Sacramento, regarding the Septic System Prohibition. Approximately two weeks after the workshop, the State Board will conduct a hearing in Sacramento and determine if it will approve the Prohibition. Staff will attend and make a presentation at the hearing. These events will occur either in June or July. Pending approval of the Septic System Prohibition by the State Board, it will transmit its findings to the Office of Administrative Law for final review and approval.

Staff Visit the Trancas Water Pollution Control Plant

Jay Das

On April 19, 2000, Regional Board staff, along with representatives from Heal the Bay and the Trancas Homeowners Association, visited the Trancas Water Pollution Control Plant site to evaluate the possibility of relocation of the existing leachfield at least 100 yards from the Trancas Creek. The site visit was held in response to Heal the Bay's comments on the revised Waste Discharge Requirements for the Trancas Water Pollution Control Plant, adopted at the March 2, 2000 Board Meeting. Based on the site visit, it was determined that there currently was no land available to relocate the leachfields. However, it was determined that, if warranted, the existing leachfield may be raised in order to maintain a ten foot separation between the ground water and the bottom of the leachfield.

Storm Water Program

State Board to Hold a Hearing Over Issues Surrounding the Los Angeles County Municipal Storm Water Permit

Xavier Swamikannu

The Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP), which was issued by the Executive Officer on March 8, 2000, can be viewed on the Board's website. Twenty-four municipalities (out of 85), the Building Industry Association of Southern California, and the Western State Petroleum Association have filed a Petition with the State Board, challenging the requirements for new development and redevelopment approved by the Board on January 26. The Administrative Record for approval of the SUSMPs, and the Regional Board 'Response' to the petition, has been submitted to the State Board. Also, Heal the Bay, the NRDC, and the BayKeeper, have sent in a response in support of the Regional Board's action. The State Board will hold an evidentiary hearing on the matter on June 7, 2000 and on June 8, if necessary, at the following location: Community Meeting Hall, Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3350 Civic Center Drive, Torrance, CA 90503.

Annual Report Review – Industrial

Xavier Swamikannu

June 30, 2000 is the deadline for submittal of 1999/2000 annual reports by the 2,660 permittees enrolled in the general permit for storm water discharges from industrial activities.

For the 1998/99 annual reporting period, 97% of the permittees have complied with the submittal requirement. This compliance rate is a marked improvement from six years ago, when only half of the permittees were submitting annual reports, and is due in large measure to enforcement actions taken against non-submitters. Staff's objective over the next year is to achieve a 100 percent submittal rate, and to increase field presence and inspections to ensure the effectiveness of the Storm Water Program Prevention Plans.

B. REMEDIATION

Well Investigation Program

USEPA Management Committee Meeting for the San Fernando Valley Superfund Project
Alex Carlos

The inter-agency Management Committee Meeting for the San Fernando Valley Superfund Project coordinated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) met on March 30, 2000. The Committee members meet quarterly to provide an update on their Superfund activities. Regional Board staff provided the current status of site assessments and cleanups at facilities overseen by the Regional Board under a cooperative agreement with USEPA. Staff also presented a progress report on the database being developed through a grant from USEPA to assist in locating potential sources of chromium contamination that has impacted some drinking water wells in the San Fernando Valley.

Other meeting highlights centered on the City of Burbank's transitional tasks to prepare for the December 2000 take over of the Burbank Operable Unit treatment plant operations from Lockheed Martin. The plant has been pumping and treating 9,000 gallons of groundwater per minute and meeting the City of Burbank's domestic water needs.

At the Glendale Operable Unit treatment plant, start-up testing was completed in February 2000. The City of Glendale is working with the Department of Health Services to obtain the permit to operate the plant. A public hearing is scheduled for June 2000 to discuss the Glendale permit. Like the Burbank treatment plant, the Glendale plant is designed to treat contaminated groundwater for domestic use and is part of USEPA's regional groundwater cleanup.

Whittier Narrows Operable Unit (WNOU) Work Group Meeting

Yi Lu

On March 23, 2000, the Whittier Narrows Operable Unit Work Group held a meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to brief concerned parties with the status of the proposed regional groundwater cleanup in Whittier Narrows. United States Environmental protection Agency (USEPA) project manager, Doug Frazer, conducted the meeting. The remedial design for the WNOU groundwater remediation system is expected to be completed by August 2000. The full operation of the system is expected to start in March 2001. USEPA is initially funding the remediation system because potentially responsible parties have not been identified.

USEPA Renews the San Fernando Valley Cooperative Agreement with Our Regional Board

Arthur G. Heath

In April 2000, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) renewed its cooperative agreement with this Regional Board to continue the chromium study in San Fernando Valley. Many of the drinking water wells in San Fernando Valley have been impacted with chlorinated organic solvents such as trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE). Now the threat is coming from chromium VI, a suspected carcinogen. Several drinking water wells are threatened by chromium VI (hexavalent chromium) contamination. USEPA is awarding the Regional Board \$550,000 to create a database of chromium facilities and to complete site assessment investigations for the April 2000 to March 31, 2001 period. The award does not include funding for additional personnel. This database will contain soil and groundwater chemical assessment data for the San Fernando Valley.

Chromium Task Force Committee Meeting

Alan Hsu

On March 30, 2000, the Chromium Task Force Committee for the San Fernando Groundwater Basin held a meeting. The meeting is routinely attended by representatives from United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the state Department of Health Services (DOHS), the state Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the City of Los Angeles, the Department of Water and Power (LADWP), and the ULARA Watermaster. Alan Hsu presented the status of the Regional Board's chromium potential source investigations. To date, 205 facilities within our San Fernando Basin database are classified as industrial chromium users. Dixon Oriola, Regional Board staff, displayed a GIS map showing the locations of the chromium users.

San Gabriel Perchlorate Coordinating Team Meeting

Ejigu Solomon

On May 2, 2000, the San Gabriel Perchlorate Coordinating Team held a meeting. At these monthly meetings, emerging chemicals new treatment methodologies, test results, and studies are discussed. Aerojet discussed their biological perchlorate treatment methodology, which has been operational in Sacramento (where the treated water is discharged to surface water). Aerojet's plan to use a similar biological system in San Gabriel Valley for the treatment of perchlorate will have meet the Department of Health Services' requirements before it can be permitted to supply potable water. One of the water purveyors, Suburban, discussed their ultraviolet (UV) system for the treatment of N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), a carcinogen found in the groundwater of San Gabriel Valley. Finally, Metropolitan Water District research staff discussed their studies for the treatment of NDMA using ozone and hydrogen peroxide at various concentrations.

Well Abandonment Meeting with LACDHS

Dixon Oriola

A meeting was held on April 26, 2000 and hosted by Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (LACDHS) in the Palmdale area office of Supervisor Antonovich to discuss new well permitting procedures and abandonments. In attendance was Richard Wagener and Mia Shur (LACDHS), Mark Mackowski (LA City ULARA Watermaster), Carl Hauge (DWR Sacramento), Bill Batson (Batson Drilling), Jorn Daubjerg (Rottman Drilling Co.), Kevin Smead (Stetson Engineers/SGV Watermaster) and Dixon Oriola (Regional Board).

LACDHS has proposed a new well permit form which requires well location information and a global positioning system (GPS) tie in, a location plate, driller and consultant contact information, and well construction or decommissioning details. LADHS is also proposing that a well construction workplan include all the above mentioned information, in addition to a four step procedure for the applicant that includes: 1) workplan review, 2) workplan approval, 3) issuance of a drilling permit and submission of a video log; and finally, 4) bacteriological testing of a water sample.

LACDHS well abandonment procedures were also discussed. Three proposed types of well abandonments included: 1) in unconfined aquifers; 2) in confined aquifers; and 3) in contaminated aquifers. Some participants felt that cost considerations should be factored into well abandonment decisions. The lack of governmental funding is also threatening the orderly process of abandoning wells across the state in a manner that could jeopardize the protection of groundwater quality.

San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Board Meeting

Arthur G. Heath

On May 1, 2000, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA) held a meeting. The WQA was established by the Legislature to coordinate and fund soil and groundwater cleanups in San Gabriel Valley. WQA's director, Kriby Brill, discussed the groundwater quality impacts in the South El Monte Operable Unit (Superfund area). Since its inception, WQA has funded many large and small groundwater cleanups in the Valley.

Site Cleanup Program

Staff considering a Revised Work Plan for Watt's Family Properties

Augustine Anijelo

On April 18, 2000, the Watt Family Properties (Watt) submitted a revised work plan for conducting subsurface investigation at the Country Hills Shopping Center (CHSC) to determine the source of acidity and high sulfate in the soil and potentially in groundwater at the CHSC. Earlier, on January 9, 2000, staff attended a community meeting. There were approximately 250 people in attendance. The meeting was hosted by the City of Torrance where the City presented the findings from a report that Blakely Environmental Investigations, Inc. (Blakely) prepared for Watt. The Blakely report suggested that the Palos Verdes Landfill (PVLf) is the source of the low pH and high sulfate that was discovered at the Ralph's Store located in the CHSC. The Solid Waste Department of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) operates the PVLf and claims that the PVLf is not the source of pollutants found at the CHSC.

City residents are concerned about potential impacts to their homes. Staff responded to some of the residents' questions during the January 9, 2000 community meeting. On March 16, 2000, we provided our comments on the Blakely report, and required Watt to submit a revised work plan for an on-site investigation. Arcadis Geraghty & Miller (AG&M), a consultant hired by Watt, prepared the revised work plan. AG&M will be in charge of conducting the necessary assessments at the CHSC. Staff is reviewing the revised work plan that AG&M submitted. We expect to complete our review and conditionally approve the work plan by mid-May. The Department of Toxic Substances Control and LACSD have expressed their intentions to provide comments on the revised work plan.

Landfills

Staff Attend the Calabasas Landfill Corrective Action Workshop

Blythe Ponek-Bacharowski

On April 11, 2000, Blythe Ponek-Bacharowski, Regional Board staff, attended a public meeting conducted by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, operator of the Calabasas Landfill, to receive comments on their proposed Corrective Action plan for the landfill. Public participation in the discharger's selection of a Corrective Action Program is now a requirement of current landfill regulations contained in Title 27, California Code of Regulations.

Comments received at the workshop will be addressed in writing by the discharger and will be included in the Report of Waste Discharge for Regional Board staff review. Oral comments heard at the workshop were constructive. Major concerns expressed were related to the adequacy of the monitoring systems, the nature and extent of the volatile organic compounds in groundwater, and possible health effects to residents. Tentative waste discharge requirements will then be developed for the Regional Board's consideration at the June 2000 board meeting.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Rod Nelson

Staff received an application on April 25, 2000 for the expansion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The expansion proposes to extend disposal operations from the Los Angeles County portion that is currently accepting municipal solid waste (MSW) back into the City of Los Angeles portion of the property that ceased accepting MSW in September 1991. Staff is reviewing the application for completeness and technical adequacy. Once this has been determined, tentative waste discharge requirements will be prepared within 120 days.

Progress Report: Puente Hills Landfill Corrective Action Program

Blythe Ponek-Bacharowski

At the June 1999 Board meeting, the Regional Board adopted waste discharge requirements for a Corrective Action Program (CAP) at the Puente Hills Landfill. During the discussion of the tentative waste discharge requirements, the Regional Board directed staff to prepare an update on the effectiveness of the CAP after the Fourth Quarter 1999 monitoring report was submitted and reviewed by staff.

Update: The trend analysis for the concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) detected in groundwater shows either a decreasing trend, or no trend, which indicates a stabilizing groundwater plume due to continued groundwater extraction at the subsurface barriers.

One component of the CAP was enhanced landfill gas extraction. Additional gas collection wells were installed and became operational in January 2000. Additional monitoring data will be used to determine the effectiveness of the CAP after enhanced gas control.

C. UNDERGROUND TANKS

Charnock Sub-basin MTBE Investigation Area Update

Harry Patel

At present there are 26 active sites in the Charnock Sub-Basin. Of the 26 active sites, site assessment has been completed at 15 sites, whereas there are 11 sites where additional site assessment requirement letters have been mailed. Groundwater monitoring is being performed at all the sites. Quarterly groundwater monitoring reports are received, reviewed, and commented upon within a short time. A total of six sites have approved remedial action plans for the cleanup of the soil and groundwater. Soil and groundwater remediation has begun at two of the sites, on-site soil remediation is underway at two additional sites, limited offsite remediation has been initiated at one site, and a pilot plan for dual phase extraction has been approved at an additional site.

Staff performs a project status update telephone conference with the interested parties and USEPA. Staff also attends meetings and participates in telephone conferences to discuss the pilot project cleanup alternatives for the remediation of the groundwater.

On September 22, 1999, the Executive Officer and EPA issued separate enforcement orders to Shell Oil Company/Shell Oil Products Company/Equilon Enterprises LLC (collectively called Shell) for water replacement costs. The Orders were issued to ensure the residents of the City of Santa Monica and Culver City continue to receive historic water supplies in the wake of MTBE groundwater pollution at the Charnock Wellfields. The enforcement Orders require Shell to either provide replacement water of a suitable quality or to pay the City of Santa Monica and Southern California Water Company to purchase replacement water. The cost to purchase replacement water is estimated at \$3.5 million per year. Shell commenced payment for water replacement costs on January 7, 2000, and has continued since that time making monthly payments to the City of Santa Monica and the Southern California Water Company.

On March 10, 2000, USEPA issued a Water Replacement Order to ARCO, Best California Gas Company, Chevron, CONOCO, Douglas Oil Co. of CA, Exxon, Mobil, Tosco, Unocal, Kazuho Nishida and HLW West Corporation. The Regional Board issued a support letter on March 14, 2000. A participate and cooperate request has been sent to the above listed parties for area-wide assessment and RI/FS study of the Charnock Subbasin. As of April 24, 2000, the Agencies have received two offers to perform limited scopes of work. One offer is from Shell/Equilon and the other is from a group (Chevron, Thrifty, Exxon, Mobil, Unocal, Tosco, and ARCO). The Agencies are in the process of reviewing the offers for their completeness.

Arcadia Wellfield MTBE Investigation Update

Jay Huang

The shallow aquifer and lower aquifer in the vicinity of the former Mobil Station 18-LDM has been treated with a pump and treat system since October 1997. The treatment system is capable of pumping 35 gallon per minutes (GPM) of extracted groundwater. Currently, approximately 17 GPM of groundwater are being pumped from 11 groundwater extraction wells from the shallow aquifer and five wells from the lower aquifer. The average MTBE concentration in the combined influent has decreased from over 2,000 mg/l in 1998 to approximately 260 mg/L during April 2000. To date (April 15, 2000) the treatment system has pumped 8.4 million gallons of groundwater and removed an estimated amount of 57 pounds of TPH_G and 175 pounds of MTBE. The impacted soil in the vadose zone has been treated with a vapor extraction system (VES). The cumulative VOC mass removed is 9,208 pounds since May 1999.

A Production Aquifer Remediation System (PARS) using activated carbon filtering to clean up the production aquifer has been constructed. PARS is composed of four carbon vessels each containing 24,000 pounds of Calgon's F600 carbon. PARS system shakedown and pumping from production well Arcadia #5 will be started by May 12, 2000.

PARS will undergo a demonstration test for four months. Mobil submitted a Demonstration Test Workplan to the agencies on April 20, 2000. System operation and raw groundwater spiking test will commence first followed by reliability testing which will last for approximately 120 days. After the PARS has been tested and approved for operation by the Department of Health Services, the treated water from Arcadia #5 will be routed to City of Santa Monica treatment plant for distribution.

San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin MTBE Investigation Update

Hubert Kang

On December 10, 1999, the Los Angeles River Watershed Unit of the Underground Storage Tank Section opened four areas within the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin for MTBE pollution investigations. The State Department of Health Services identified where MTBE had been detected in several Drinking Water Systems. The City of Los Angeles (North Hollywood, Tujunga, and Verdugo wellfields) operate three of the wellfields and the City of Burbank (Burbank Operable Unit) operates one wellfield.

Questionnaires were sent initially to 58 potential responsible parties and one later in January 2000. The parties were required to collect information on their sites, which are located within an approximate one-mile radius of each wellfield area and to submit information by January 21, 2000. Most of the parties responded to our initial inquiries, but a few cases need follow-up as either no response was received or mailing address problems were identified. On March 31 and April 6, 2000, Regional Board staff conducted site reconnaissance to confirm the locations of the sites and surrounding properties in North Hollywood and Tujunga wellfield investigation areas and to look for any additional site to be listed. As a result, one additional initial questionnaire was sent out to a potential party on April 10, 2000. There are currently 63 potential source sites identified within the San Fernando Valley.

Questions have been raised regarding the validity of MTBE data and whether the data reported by the State Department of Health Services is representative of current groundwater conditions in the Burbank and North Hollywood areas. Most of the data used to identify MTBE detected in these production wells was acquired during the late-1997 to early 1998 time period. MTBE data review indicates that detections of MTBE were isolated, inconsistently detected, and of relatively low concentrations that decrease with time to non-detect. Further review of the compiled MTBE data is necessary together with discussion with the State Department of Health Services and cities. Based upon this further review and evaluation, the scope of investigation may be modified or reduced.

UST staff is in the process of reviewing the information received from questionnaire responses for adequacy and completeness. Staff will follow-up with those that failed to submit the questionnaires or submit inadequate responses. UST staff will perform supplemental field surveys in the Burbank area to ensure that all potential source sites have been identified.

Underground Storage Tank Working Group Meeting April 27, 2000

David Bacharowski

The ninth UST Working Group meeting was held at Regional Board office on April 27, 2000. A total of 48 people were in attendance. The attendees represented major oil companies, environmental consultants, local regulatory agencies, environmental lawyers, environmental organizations, special interest groups, and Regional Board staff. Because of the special interest topic for this meeting, a greater number of Regional Board UST Section staff also attended.

This meeting focused on the recently issued Final Draft Guidelines for the Investigation and Cleanup of MTBE and Other Ether-Based Oxygenates. In a related matter, Mark Weiner of Del Mar Analytical spoke about test method for analysis of gasoline oxygenated compounds. As a primary author of the Final Draft MTBE Guidelines, Kevin Graves of State Water Board, Cleanup Fund was invited to speak about the Final Draft MTBE Guidelines for California. David Bacharowski of Regional Board UST Section Program Manager presented an update on staff activities regarding MTBE issues in Los Angeles Region, including identification and GIS mapping of the vulnerable areas in the region per the new state guideline criteria. The presentations were well interacted with questions and discussions from the attendance.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled in late August 2000. The potential topics of interest identified by the Working Group members included 1) update of MTBE activities in the Region, 2) current issues related to MTBE, and 3) update of State GEIMS/Geotracker System for MTBE data input. The agenda for the next meeting will be available at a later date. Copies of the final draft MTBE guidelines can be obtained at the following website:

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/news/index.html>.

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program Geographic Information System Update

Joe Luera

The use of GIS in the UGT Section has become an integral part of the newly implemented "Guidelines for Investigation and Cleanup of MTBE and Other Ether-Based Oxygenates" review procedures. Under these new procedures, the prioritization of case review will be determined by the distance a particular LUST case is from a production well, the aquifer vulnerability, the concentration of MTBE in groundwater at the site, and the estimated travel time to the production well. Therefore, obtaining accurate locational data for the production wells within our region is critical for the implementation of the new procedures. Staff has obtained data from several local agencies that have used GPS to obtain more accurate data for the production wells under their jurisdiction.

Groundwater Management System Geographic Information System (also known as the GEIMS/GeoTracker)

Nhan Bao

April 27, 2000 marked the beginning of the new Leaking Underground Storage Tank Information System, Groundwater Management System Geographic Information System (also known as the GEIMS/GeoTracker). The GEIMS/GeoTracker is located at <http://geotracker2.arsenaultlegg.com/>.

Currently, a user can search for any Leaking Underground Fuel Tank or public well by "pointing and clicking" on GIS electronic map to search for a LUFT in a particular area. This takes a series of zooming in and out to locate the area of interest. Once the area of interest is found, a user can

specify a more detailed search such as LUFT sites, Active Fuel Sites, Public Wells, Highways, Roads, Surface water, Watersheds, GW Basins, Pipelines, and Confining layers. Once a LUFT site is located, the GEIMS/GeoTracker is able to provide additional detailed information about the site including the locations of nearby public water supply wells. The GEIMS/GeoTracker is still under construction. Therefore, many of the system's features have not yet been installed.

Completion of Corrective Action at Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank Sites

Regional Board staff have reviewed corrective actions taken for soil and/or groundwater contamination problems from leaking USTs for the time of February 10, 2000 through May 5, 2000, and determined that no further corrective actions are required:

Former Chevron Service Station No. 9-2067 (I-09867)
Precession Auto Body, Hollywood (900280070)
Tesoro Petroleum Companies Inc., San Gabriel (I-20798)
Mary Masellis Property, Woodland Hills (913670589)
United States Postal Service, Los Angeles (900280089)
Former USA Gasoline Corporation Service Station No. 82, Santa Clara (R-11121)

General Felt Industries, Pico Rivera (I-04162)

Torkomnian ARCO Service Station, La Mirada (I-04404)

UST Staff Receives Two Honors

Gregg Kwey

Larry Harlan, Regional Board staff, was inducted into the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society on April 26, 2000. Larry also received an additional honor on May 6, 2000. He was awarded a Certificate of Academic Merit as the Outstanding Graduate Student of the CSULB Geography Department.

City of Los Angeles' East Valley Reclamation Project (Toilet to Tap)

Dennis Dasker

Media coverage has recently reported on the City of Los Angeles' project to reclaim tertiary treated effluent from the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant by transporting the treated effluent for surface spreading in spreading grounds at the north end of the San Fernando Valley. The construction of the pipeline to transport the reclaimed water to the spreading grounds has recently been completed and the City was ready to begin spreading the reclaimed water but has postponed initiation of the project. The Daily News dubbed the project "Toilet to Tap" and it has generated a great deal of controversy. The City proposed the project to the Regional Board back in 1993. Since this was a project to reuse treated wastewater, the Board was required by law to receive the recommendations of the State Department of Health Services (DHS) prior to considering adoption of Water Reclamation Requirements. Board staff, DHS staff, and City staff had numerous meetings on the proposed project. Recommendations were received from DHS and tentative Requirements were prepared and circulated to all known interested parties. The Board adopted the tentative Water Reclamation Requirements and a Monitoring and Reporting Program at its September 1995 Regular Board Meeting. The Requirements adopted included the DHS recommendations and an extensive monitoring program to ensure that the requirements are complied with.

SURFACE WATER DIVISION

Trash TMDL Workshop for the Los Angeles River Held on April 4

Myriam Zech

Approximately 80 stakeholders attended a workshop on the preliminary draft Trash TMDL for the Los Angeles River, held at the Los Angeles River Center on April 4, 2000. Organizations represented included several cities, Los Angeles County, and environmental groups. As drafted, the Los Angeles River Trash TMDL will regulate trash that enters the river via storm drains. Cities and Los Angeles County will be required to reduce the amount of trash that is discharged from the storm drains by approximately 10 percent per year to meet the numeric target of zero. The baseline allocation will be determined based on data gathered during a two-year monitoring period. The Los Angeles River Trash TMDL will serve as the template for the Ballona Creek Trash TMDL, which is being developed concurrently.

Dennis Dickerson, Executive Officer, provided a brief introduction, describing the background of the Trash TMDL and how it related to the Board's Notice to Meet and Confer Regarding the Discharge of Trash, dated March 21, 2000. Myriam Zech, Regional Board staff, followed with a presentation outlining the main components of the TMDL, and Jon Bishop, Regional Programs Section Chief, facilitated questions and comments from the audience. Most questions focused on the technical details of the initial baseline-monitoring program.

As requested by several stakeholders, the deadline for written comments to be received on the current draft was extended to May 14, 2000. Comments that were received by that date are being considered in the drafting of the Basin Plan Amendment language and final draft trash TMDLs for both the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek watersheds.

D. WATERSHED REGULATORY

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District v. State Board and RWQCB

Dennis Dickerson

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District has filed a petition for writ of mandate in Superior Court seeking review of the Regional Board's decision to impose nitrate effluent limits at their Tapia treatment plant. Previously, this permit had been appealed to the State Board in January and is currently pending in that venue. However, Las Virgenes has appealed to the courts citing irreparable harm if the matter was not heard immediately. A response to the petition has been filed in Superior Court and a hearing was held on Tuesday, May 9. At the hearing, the judge denied Las Virgenes' petition for a stay and remanded the matter to the State Board for the completion of administrative review.

Los Angeles River Watershed

Progress on Studies Required by a Time Schedule Order Issued to Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority

Cathy Chang

On January 31, 2000, the Regional Board issued a Time Schedule Order (No. 2000-12) to Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) to comply with the requirements contained in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (Order No. 99-143) for groundwater dewatering discharges to Dominguez Channel. As required by the Time Schedule Order, ACTA is in the process of conducting a set of special studies to evaluate the effects of chelation of metals, a method being used by ACTA to reduce the toxicity of metals in their discharge. The Time Schedule Order specified a provision for an oversight committee to provide direction and oversight on the studies required. The oversight committee members, invited by the Executive Officer of the Regional Board, consist of representatives from the US EPA, the Regional Board, ACTA, environmental groups, and Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

The committee has met four times since March 9, 2000. On April 20th, the Oversight Committee discussed specific details of the workplans developed to conduct ACTA's studies. Currently, the workplans are in the process of being revised and expected to be finalized soon. At the most recent meeting on May 10th, the committee discussed the results available to date on the studies.

Ventura Coastal Watershed
Ojai Valley Sanitary District Earns Plant of the Year Honor

Mark Pumford

Ojai Valley Sanitary District, which provides sewer service for the residents of the Ojai Valley, was recently awarded the Plant of the Year award for small plants (less than 10 million gallons per day) in the state. The award was presented to the District by the California Water Environment Association (CWEA), which is an organization devoted to improving water quality and water resources in the state. The award is based on excellence in the areas of administration, regulatory compliance, safety, plant operations and maintenance, and overall plant appearance. The treatment plant, which recently underwent a \$28 million upgrade to tertiary treatment, was among nine treatment plants throughout the state that were nominated for the award.

Matilija Dam Removal Task Force Meeting

Mark Pumford

On May 5, 2000, a task force meeting was held to address the problems associated with the removal of the Matilija Dam. Attendees discussed funding recommendations, impacts to water quality, habitat impacts to the Ventura River, alternatives for sediment transportation, and proposed timing of project components.

LA Inland Watershed

City of Los Angeles and City of Burbank Lawsuits Regarding NPDES Permits

Gary Schultz

The City of Los Angeles has contested the issuance of NPDES permits issued in 1998 for the Donald C. Tillman and the Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plants. The City of Burbank has also contested the issuance of the NPDES permit issued for the Burbank Water Reclamation Plant. In 1998, after the permits were adopted by the Regional Board, the City of Los Angeles and the City of Burbank petitioned the State Board to appeal the issuance of the permits. Subsequently, the Cities have filed a stay of the application of the permits in Los Angeles Superior Court. The Court, on December 29, 1999, granted a temporary stay regarding the permits and the respective effluent limits. The Deputy Attorney General and the Office of Chief Counsel are currently working

on the court action. The Friends of the Los Angeles River, the Friends of the River, and the Santa Monica BayKeeper have filed a motion to intervene in the City of Los Angeles' case.

E. REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Steering Committee for an Integrated Plan for the City of LA's Wastewater Program

Deborah Smith

The City of Los Angeles has convened a three-tiered group to assist them in developing a long term Integrated Plan for their Wastewater Program. A steering committee will meet frequently over the course of a 12-month period and will work directly with the city on policy and goal development. An advisory group will meet at key milestones and will offer advice to the steering committee. An information group will be generally advised on the progress of the plan. Assistant Executive Officer, Deborah Smith will represent the Regional Board on the Steering Committee. The first meeting was held on April 11th. At this meeting, an overview of the process was presented. The next meeting will be held on June 6, 2000.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

USDA and EPA Issue Joint Statement on Proposed TMDL and NPDES Rules

Melinda Becker

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued a joint statement on Monday, May 1, 2000 regarding proposed revisions to the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) provisions of the Clean Water Act. The statement represents the agreement of an interagency workgroup led by USDA Under Secretary Jim Lyons and USEPA Assistant Administrator Chuck Fox. The workgroup was formed in response to USEPA's proposed amendments to the TMDL and NPDES regulations, as published in the Federal Register on August 23, 1999. The rule is expected to be finalized later this summer.

Status of the SWRCB's Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (Policy) and the U.S. EPA's California Toxics Rule (CTR)

On April 28, the State Office of Administrative Law approved the SWRCB's Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California making it effective immediately for National Toxics Rule (NTR) criteria and basin plan objectives for priority pollutants. Meanwhile, USEPA signed the California Toxics Rule (CTR), which will become effective upon publication in the Federal Register in mid-May. The adopted Policy will be submitted to USEPA for approval. Because the Policy and the CTR will become effective prior to the May 30 effective date of the Alaska Rule, the Policy can be implemented before USEPA approval.

What this means for the Regional Board is that priority pollutant criteria and objectives must be implemented immediately in applicable, upcoming NPDES permits. The CTR, which carries over the NTR criteria unchanged, will provide guidance on which basin plan objectives will continue to apply and which will be replaced by CTR criteria. State Board staff will work with Regional Board staff toward full and effective implementation of these water quality standards and the Policy.

The final Policy will be distributed to the Regional Board and the public in May. Regional Board staff training on the CTR and the Policy is being scheduled for late-June through late-July in Sacramento and Riverside.

Nonpoint Source Program

Summary of Plan for California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program

Raymond Jay

The Plan for California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (Plan) is the first significant upgrade of California's Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Control Program since its inception in 1988. California is required to have its NPS Program conform to the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA). To satisfy both of these requirements, California has chosen to include the entire state in its coastal nonpoint program. The California Coastal Commission and the State Board, in coordination with the Regional Boards, function as the lead agencies for implementing the Plan.

The Plan addresses the CWA Section 319 requirements for an "upgraded program" and the CZARA requirements for a coastal nonpoint pollution control program (CNPCP) by providing a unified, coordinated statewide approach to dealing with NPS pollution structured around 61 management measures (MM). The 15-year Plan includes the following elements:

- ? Adoption of 61 MMs.
- ? A commitment to implement all of the MMs within 15 years.
- ? An MOU between the Coastal Commission and the State Board regarding their commitment to serve as lead agencies for implementation of the Plan.
- ? A schedule to implement targeted MMs to be developed in three consecutive 5-year plans.
- ? Tracking and evaluating program effectiveness through biennial and 5-year evaluations. Biennial evaluations will focus on assessing continuing implementation of MMs and activities identified in the 5-year plans. At the end of each 5-year period, the State will conduct an evaluation of how well performance measures and implementation goals identified in the 5-year plans have been met and assess mechanisms, including rulemaking, to improve program implementation.
- ? A description of the authority of the Coastal Commission, via the Coastal Act, and the State and Regional Boards, via Porter-Cologne, to implement the Plan.
- ? Incorporation of additional State authorities into the Plan through MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding) and MAAs (Management Agency Agreement).

The State Board adopted the Plan on December 14, 1999 and the Coastal Commission did so on January 11, 2000. On May 1, 2000, USEPA and NOAA published a notice of intent to fully approve the California Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, pursuant to CZARA Section 6217. It is anticipated that USEPA will announce its decision concerning approval, pursuant to CWA Section 319, following the 30-day federal register comment period.

Training and Staffing Update

Raymond Jay

Nonpoint Source Staff attended several training workshops during the previous month including the Irrigated Agriculture Roundtable and the Nonpoint Source Management Outreach for State Programs. We have also hired two new Environmental Specialists to help us complete our workplan

commitments.

F. WATERSHED/COASTAL WATERS

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Shirley Birosik

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The Water Quality/Water Resources Subcommittee last met on March 3. Regional Board representatives gave a progress report on the chloride TMDL currently underway in the watershed. Data generated by the Surface Water Element of the Calleguas Creek Characterization Study Monitoring Program is being evaluated and a report is in progress. Monitoring associated with the Groundwater Element of the program continues. Another component of the program, funded by Clean Water Act 205(j) monies, is evaluating nonpoint source contributions and is in the data analysis stage with the goal of developing preliminary loadings for nitrogen and phosphorus. The Subcommittee is currently in the process of drafting a Water Resources/Water Quality Chapter in the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan. The Subcommittee was scheduled to have met on April 28; however this meeting was cancelled and has not yet been rescheduled.

The Flood Protection/Sedimentation Subcommittee last met on March 13. They are currently involved with discussions on conducting a hydrologic study of the watershed. The group's next meeting is scheduled for May 1.

The Public Education/Outreach Subcommittee met on March 24 and discussed issues related to the educational video that is being developed of the watershed. It has completed the first edition of a newsletter to cover watershed issues and events. Additionally, the group has produced a color brochure on the management plan process in the watershed.

A Land Use Subcommittee has recently been formed and will include representatives from local planning agencies.

The Habitat/Recreation Subcommittee met on April 11 and continues work on a wetlands study which includes a habitat mapping component. A general inventory of wetlands in the watershed is complete and potential sites for restoration have been identified. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for June 6. A Biology Advisory Group has been formed to aid this Subcommittee in review of technical materials. It has met on April 11 and May 2.

The Steering Committee for the Watershed Management Plan met on March 30. A draft Table of Contents for the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan being developed has been prepared.

The full Management Committee will also meet on March 30. Information about the management committee and its subcommittees can be found at <http://www.calleguas.com/cc.htm>

Los Angeles River Watershed

The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council meets on the third Wednesday of each

month. The Council's Internet address is <http://www.lasgriverswatershed.org> On August 10, 1999, members of the Watershed Council assisted the California Coastal Conservancy in conducting a tour of potential restoration sites in the lower watershed as part of a meeting of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. These sites may be viewed at <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/index.html>.

The Friends of the LA River has a Los Angeles River e-mail discussion forum. To subscribe, e-mail to la-river-discuss-subscribe@makelist.com. To view archives of past Los Angeles River discussions on the Internet, go to <http://www.egroups.com/list/la-river-discuss>. The group co-sponsored the seminar held on May 13, at Occidental College on Water Quality of the Los Angeles River, Re-envisioning the L.A. River series. Speakers from volunteer monitoring organizations, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works will discuss water quality issues of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers.

Santa Monica Bay Watershed

The Modeling and Monitoring Subcommittee of the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council has drafted a watershed-wide monitoring program for the Malibu Creek Watershed. The group last met on May 6, 1999. A draft-monitoring program has been distributed to stakeholders for comment. A major task will be finding partners to participate in this voluntary program to assess and help correct the water quality concerns in this area. No further meetings are currently scheduled for this group.

The Malibu Lagoon Task Force last met on April 18. The Task Force is concerned with lagoon water level management and all aspects of the UCLA study of the lagoon. The UCLA study covers a hydrologic evaluation, appropriateness of various biological and water quality objectives, water level management, eutrophication issues, pathogens, and the historical condition of the lagoon. The study was funded by a California Coastal Conservancy grant with assistance by local agencies. A new facilitator is now leading the group toward refining the future goals of the Task Force which include developing a priority list of restoration options.

The Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council last met on March 21 and is scheduled to meet again this month.

A watershed committee has been meeting in the Topanga Creek Watershed. A major near-term goal of this watershed committee is to prioritize potential actions previously identified in a draft Topanga Creek Watershed Management Study and start a coordinated resource management planning (CRMP) process. A longer-term goal is preparation of a watershed management plan that will help address a number of issues including flood control in the canyon. The group held a Streambank Stabilization Workshop on March 4 in lieu of a regular committee meeting. The committee last met on April 27 and is currently planning for a seminar this month concerning septic system regulations and fire safe vegetation management as well as one on June 10 concerning grading and drainage best management practices. The committee's website address is <http://www.TopangaOnline.com/twc/>.

The Technical Advisory Committee to the Topanga Creek Water Quality Study (funded through 205(j) monies) was formed to help guide the project and will meet next on June 15 to review data.

Other Santa Monica Bay Watershed activities are covered under the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project item.

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project is a partnership of public agencies working cooperatively to acquire, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands and watersheds between Point

Conception and the International border with Mexico. Using a non-regulatory approach and an ecosystem perspective, the Wetlands Project works to identify wetland acquisition and restoration priorities, prepare plans for these priority sites, pool funds to undertake these projects, implement priority plans, and oversee post-project maintenance and monitoring.

The goal of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project is to accelerate the pace, the extent, and the effectiveness of coastal wetland restoration in Southern California through the development and implementation of a regional prioritization plan for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of Southern California's coastal wetlands and watersheds. Ultimately, the Wetlands Project's efforts will result in a long-term increase in the quantity and quality of the region's wetlands.

The Wetlands Project is headed by Board of Governors comprised of top officials from each of the participating agencies. The Southern California Wetlands Managers Group and the Public Advisory Committee serve as advisory committees to the Board. The Wetlands Managers Group is responsible for drafting the regional restoration plan and advising the Governing Board on regional acquisition, restoration, and enhancement priorities. The Wetlands Project has also established a panel of scientists to advise on regional goals, specific objectives, project criteria, and priorities. Governing Board meetings are public and are noticed at least 10 days prior to each meeting. If you sign up on the [Wetlands Project email list](#), you will receive email notification of all board meetings. Minutes from previous meetings and other information about the group may be found on their website at <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/index.html>.

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project recently began accepting proposals for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects for coastal wetlands and watersheds in Southern California. Project nominations are being considered for the fiscal year 2000-2001 priority project list. Each spring, the Wetlands Recovery Project Managers Group recommends a list of priority projects to the Governing Board that meet the evaluation criteria adopted by the Board. This information is available for viewing on the website. A key consideration is whether projects will actually be able to use funds for on the groundwork in the upcoming fiscal year. Other potential projects are entered into a database for re-consideration in the future. The Wetlands Recovery Project does not have adequate funds for all of the projects on the priority list, so it has adopted a policy of "first-ready, first-funded." The Managers Group met with the local county task forces on March 14, 15, and 22 to consider additional projects for the 2000-2001 fiscal year. The Governing Board will consider the updated priority list at its June 9 meeting. A project is more than a wetland or watershed that needs help. It must be a specific action. To be considered a priority project, acquisitions must have willing sellers and restoration work must have a local agency or non-profit that can carry out the work with the assistance of the Coastal Conservancy. The Wetlands Recovery Project helps to identify and fund worthy projects, but does not carry out the work. Limited funds are available for planning. Projects closer to the coast or clearly benefiting coastal resources will receive preference. A list of the current priority projects is provided on the website as well.

Watershed Management Initiative Chapter

Each Regional Board has completed the process of producing a "chapter" on how that Board is implementing watershed management in the Region. The consolidated statewide chapter will become the basis for funding decisions including allocating money for monitoring, TMDL development, and grant monies disbursement. Each Region's Chapter is updated on an annual basis; the last update occurred in January 2000 and includes information on Regional Board implementation of the state's upgraded nonpoint source management program. Copies of this Region's current Chapter, as well as Appendices, and/or its Executive Summary may be obtained by contacting the Regional Board office, Regional Programs Section secretary. The document may also be sent out electronically in MSWord97 and is also available on the Regional Board's webpage under Regional Programs at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4>

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Regional Board is Co-Sponsoring a SUSMP Workshop to be Held on June 9

Wendy Phillips and Xavier Swamikannu

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works will co-sponsor a Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) workshop on June 9, 2000, from 8:00-5:00 p.m. in Alhambra at the County Department of Public Works, Main Building. The purpose of the workshop is to educate participants about recently approved requirements to reduce storm water pollution from new development and redevelopment and their implementation. The latest storm water treatment control technologies will also be on display by a number of vendors. The contact person is Carmen Rios at (626) 458-3525.

South Bay Council of Governments Meeting Discusses SUSMPs

Dennis Dickerson

On April 27th, the South Bay Council of Governments (COG) held its regular meeting and the topic of SUSMPs was on the agenda. The COG is a forum for elected local government representatives to meet and confer on issues of regional concern. The Executive Officer made a brief presentation to the members of the COG on the Topic of Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plans which was followed by comments from several of those participating in the meeting.

Staff Give Presentation to Environmental Groups and the Building Industry Association on the Ventura Municipal Storm Water Draft Permit

Mark Pumford

On April 18, 2000, Board staff made presentations, with the staff of the Ventura County-wide Storm Water Quality Management Program, to environmental groups (Heal the Bay and Friends of the Santa Clara River) and representatives of the Building Industry Association. The presentations dealt with the history of the program for Ventura County and the changes to the permit since its original adoption in 1994. The presentations included discussions of the monitoring program modifications and the development of the Stormwater Quality Urban Impact Mitigation Plan (SQUIMP).

Conference – From Drain to Dream III

Deborah Smith

On Saturday, April 15th, the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Watershed Council held a conference entitled: *From Drain to Dream III- Water Quality Issues Explored*. This conference was sponsored by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the City of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The primary objectives of this conference were for the Watershed Council to 1) present a draft "book" on Beneficial Uses of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and 2) to gain perspectives on water quality standards issues from the regulated community, regulatory agencies, the environmental community and the public at large. In the morning session, Dennis Dickerson, Executive Officer, gave a presentation on the role of the Regional Board. Following a presentation by Dr. Heather Trim of the Watershed Council on her draft Beneficial Uses paper, Deborah Smith, Assistant Executive Officer, participated on a response

panel to provide the regulatory agency perspective on the paper and associated issues in our urban watersheds. Board member Fran Diamond and Section Chief, Jon Bishop also attended the conference. In the afternoon, facilitated workshops were held to explore existing and future beneficial uses for our local rivers and streams. A summary of the conference findings will be prepared by the Watershed Council. This information will assist the watershed council and other stakeholders in developing watershed plans and making recommendations to the Regional Board.

Sun Valley Watershed Advisory Group Meeting

Xavier Swamikannu

A meeting of the Sun Valley Advisory Group was held on April 27, 2000. The Advisory Group consists of state and local elected official representatives, the County of Los Angeles, Tree People, and local community groups. The County of Los Angeles has convened the group to obtain advice on building community support for non-traditional multipurpose solutions which will also relieve severe flood problems in the valley. The proposed solution, which promotes natural runoff detention and infiltration, will reduce local and downstream flooding, increase ground water recharge, reduce storm water pollution, and increase neighborhood aesthetics. Several community meetings to discuss the approach and receive input have are being planned. Board staff attended to support the project.

Panel Discussion at Citrus College's Water Awareness Day

Dennis Dasker

Dennis Dasker represented the Regional Board in a water quality panel presentation at the 15th Annual Water Awareness Day program at Citrus College on April 18, 2000, in Glendora. The topic of the panel was "The Future of Recycled Water – The lead for recycled water projects is coming from Sacramento; how will we implement that goal locally?" The State Department of Health Services was also on the panel and presented the background on the development of State standards for the reclamation/reuse of treated wastewater while staff presented the procedures used by the Regional Board in the development and implementation of Water Reclamation Requirements.

Environmental Remediation Seminar

Rebecca Chou

Dr. Rebecca Chou represented the Los Angeles Regional Board in an Environmental Remediation Seminar held on April 26, 2000. The ARCADIS Geraghty & Miller, Inc. hosted the seminar. Rebecca presented Regional Board's requirements for innovative remedial technologies for in-situ remediation including chemical oxidation, bioremediation, and reactive barrier.

Association for the Environmental Health of Soils

David Bacharowski

Three Regional Board staff were among the conference speakers in the Association for the Environmental Health of Soils (AEHS) West Coast Conference, held from March 20 to 23, 2000, in San Diego. Dr. Yue Rong (Underground Storage Tank Section) presented a workshop on "Use of PC Spreadsheet Analytical Model to Estimate MTBE Plume Length." Dr. Weixing Tong (Underground Storage Tank Section) was a platform speaker on "Estimation of MTBE Plume Length using Domenico Analytical Model." Tom Shih (Underground Storage Tank Section) was also a platform speaker on "Evaluation of GAC Technology using Rapid Small-Scale Column Tests for MTBE Removal from Drinking Water," which is a result of his doctoral research project at UCLA.

Earth Day Celebration in Whittier Narrows

David Rasmussen and Jim Covin

On April 22, 2000, Regional Board staff participated in the Earth Day festivities at the Whittier Narrows Nature Center. David Rasmussen, Regional Board staff, and Jim Covin, Regional Board student assistant, conducted simulated demonstrations of how stormwater pollution runoff affects our environment and handed out posters and other water quality related information. Assembly member Thomas Calderon hosted the event, which was well attended, and provided an excellent opportunity for staff to get our message out to the public.

American Chemical Society National Meeting

Yue Rong

Regional Board staff, Dr. Yue Rong, was a platform speaker at the American Chemical Society 219th National Meeting held on March 28, 2000. The featured speech was about data analysis on MTBE plume length in Los Angeles Region. On March 29, 2000, in the same meeting, Board staff Tom Shih also presented "Evaluation of GAC Technology for the Removal of MTBE from Drinking Water," which is a result of his doctoral research project at UCLA.

Staff Gives Presentations on Environmental Issues at Two Local Schools

Magdy Baiady

Magdy Baiady, Regional Board staff, gave a presentation for Environmental Day at St. Nicholas School in Northridge on March 31, 2000. The presentation addressed environmental issues such as trash, waste oil, and surface water pollution. Water quality and groundwater issues throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties were addressed. A videotape and slides were used during the presentation.

Magdy also gave a presentation on environmental issues for surface water and groundwater for Los Angeles County for Career Day at Cantara Street Elementary School on April 7, 2000.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Personnel Report

Dolores Renick

As of May 5, 2000 our staff total was 136: 119 technical staff (including 2 part-time staff), 4 permanent administrative staff and 13 permanent clerical staff.

Staff is currently taking steps to fill 1 Section Chief position, 2 Unit Chief positions, 10 technical positions, 1 Assistant Information Systems Analyst, 1 Information Systems Technician and 2 clerical staff positions.

Since March 23 the following appointments have been made:

Enrique Casas, Associate Engineering Geologist in the Landfills Unit, appointed 3/24/00.

Parvaneh Khayat, Environmental Specialist I in the Storm Water Unit, appointed 3/27/00.

L.B. Nye, Environmental Specialist III in the L.A. Coastal Unit, appointed 3/27/00.

Morton Price, Environmental Specialist I in the Enforcement Unit, appointed 3/27/00.

Jack Topel, Environmental Specialist I with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, appointed 3/27/00.

Valerie Carrillo, Environmental Specialist I in the Nonpoint Source Unit, appointed 4/10/00.
Ed Schumacher, Associate Governmental Program Analyst in the Standards and TMDL Unit, appointed 4/17/00.
Steven Hariri, Associate Water Resource Control Engineer in the Site Cleanup I Unit, appointed 4/18/00.
Gensen Kai, Water Resource Control Engineer in the L.A. Coastal Unit, appointed 4/24/00.
Jeremy Addison, Environmental Specialist I in the Nonpoint Source Unit, appointed 5/1/00.
C. Eric Wu, Water Resource Control Engineer in the Site Cleanup I Unit, appointed 5/2/00.

The following promotions were made:

Arthur Heath, from Environmental Specialist IV (Supervisory) to Environmental Program Manager I, effective 4/5/00.
Jack Price, from Associate Water Resource Control Engineer to Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, effective 4/3/00.
Ronji Harris, from Secretary to Executive Assistant, effective 4/6/00.
Gwendolyn Monroe, from Management Services Technician to Staff Services Analyst, effective 2/15/00.
Dixon Oriola, from Associate Engineering Geologist to Senior Engineering Geologist, effective 5/11/00.
Blythe Ponek-Bacharowski, from Associate Engineering Geologist to Senior Engineering Geologist, effective 5/11/00.